

Auckland
January 25th 1881

Dear Lucy -

I have not written
for some time - The cause is idleness.

I have been on camp since the
beginning of November - am now
in town for an indefinite period, I
may have to go out to-morrow or
perhaps not for three months -

I received a letter from you
about Xmas time with ~~post~~-cards
for which please accept a perfect
multitude of thanks - I received
a "disguised sermon" from Mr &
Mrs Rout as a Xmas card -

Of course they have told you
that Father has been at work this

It does not seem to make him any better however - as he has been giving us a treat to-night -

Susie is about the same as ever - She was, for a time, devoted to Miss Muffin who is an "eminently domestic" young person also excessively insignificant - I don't think you would like her - ~~See~~ Lately the friendship has a good deal subsided & Miss Amy Goulstone is at present all the rage - She is obese - to call her fat would not in the least convey any meaning - She is quite as stout as Mrs J. M. Macdonald and yet she is ~~at~~ only seventeen - Susie says she is clever - I am sure I hope she is, for she ought to be something to counteract that awful fat -

We have had the King of the Macris here - we have been enthusiastic over him - we have cheered the dirty-old beggar till we were hoarse in the throat & generally snatched words of ourselves about him - When I say "we" I mean the people of Auckland - The poor old man was quite carried away by the flattery & so forth - I will send you some of his speeches if you like - He went home to-day - He drove down Queen Street in a carriage ~~and~~ dressed in a white sheet & a Bell-topper - nothing more, not even boots - His sister was with him dressed in the height of fashion a full-back dress & all that - The contrast was pleasing -

The Macdonalds are about the same as ever - The Bond tragedy still continues to enliven us - It appears as if he was not going to come up to time - So much the better for Ada I should think -

Suzie & I get the credit of being "stuck up" among them all - But really as I often tell Tom "Life is far too short to waste time among the sort of people they mix with."

I send you a picture of our office - It is quite a large place is it not? - That is Goodson's (Brother's friend's) place underneath & we have the two top stories -

I think I have not much more to say so I will stop, it being the foot of the page & I make it a point never to write more than one sheet - Love to you & all

Yours as ever

J. N. Denton

Mr Robertson - parson will probably call on you - I don't like him - Awful pol - Like Ferguson -

J. N. D.